

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed August 30, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-17 are pending in this application, with claim 1, 11, and 16 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants mailed an Information Disclosure Statement on August 26, 2005. However, the Office Action issued on August 30, 2005 before the Information Disclosure Statement was matched with the file. Accordingly, please consider the Information Disclosure Statement mailed on August 26, 2005.

Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,945,598 (Enright).

Claims 11-14 and 16-17 are allowed. Claims 4-10 were found to contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although the finding of allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated, Applicants respectfully submit the following arguments for allowability of independent claim 1.

Independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the wheel adapter is operable to couple a wheel that is mounted on a vehicle to the means for changing the contact force F_A . Support for this amendment is found in the last nine lines of paragraph 0013 and in Fig. 1 of the specification. Further support is found in the original claim 1 which states that the device is "for simulating slip of a wheel on a vehicle test bench" (emphasis added).

Enright fails to teach or suggest the recited wheel adapter configuration. Enright relates to a dynamometer test apparatus for aircraft brakes. According to Enright, an aircraft wheel, tire, and brake assembly 26 is mounted on an axle 22 of the test device instead of on a vehicle (i.e., aircraft). Furthermore, Enright teaches away from connecting directly to a wheel while the wheel is mounted on an aircraft (see col. 1, lines 15-20). Accordingly, Enright fails to teach or suggest "a wheel adapter operable to couple said means for changing the contact force F_A to said wheel while the wheel is mounted on a vehicle", as now expressly recited in independent claim 1. In view of the above amendments and comments, independent claim 1 is deemed to be allowable over Enright.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 15, each being dependent on independent claim 1, are deemed to be allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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